

with our own on the unnecessary destruction of rare birds. "I do not understand," he wrote, "Natural Science to consist of a mania for collecting; I look upon it rather as a study of God's works in the world, which he has created and peopled:" and as one means of checking this mania do we heartily wish Mr. Bree well, and recommend the purchase of his book to all our readers.

December 1858.

X.—Recent Ornithological Publications.

THOSE who wish to keep themselves *au fait* with the present rapid advance of every part of Zoology will do well to consult the Report upon the progress of its different branches published every year in the second volume of 'Wiegmann's Archiv für Naturgeschichte,' now edited by Professor Troschel. In the "Bericht über die Leistungen in der Naturgeschichte der Vögel" (Report on the Birds), from the pen of Dr. Hartlaub, will always be found a complete *résumé* of what has been done in Ornithology during the previous year. The only fault we have to find with it is its somewhat tardy appearance (the Bericht for 1857 not having yet reached us); but this, we believe, is owing to no fault of the author. We are not prepared at present to offer to our readers any such detailed and complete account of what has been published, but shall endeavour from time to time to notice some of the principal publications, relating to the branch of Zoology to which this Journal is devoted, which come under our notice.

1. ENGLISH PUBLICATIONS.

In speaking of books concerning Birds published in this country, Mr. Gould's magnificent series of illustrated works claims our first attention. In the year 1858 Mr. Gould has issued Parts 15 and 16 of the 'Monograph of the *Trochilidæ*,' Part 10 of 'The Birds of Asia,' and the first part of a new edition of the Monograph of the Trogons. The Humming-birds figured are the following:—

Part 15. (May 1st, 1858.)

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|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Eriocnemis derbianus</i> . | 9. <i>Lampornis veraguensis</i> . |
| 2. „ <i>nigrivestis</i> . | 10. „ <i>aurulentus</i> . |
| 3. „ <i>isaacsoni</i> . | 11. „ <i>prevosti</i> . |
| 4. <i>Trochilus colubris</i> . | 12. <i>Cometes? glyceria</i> . |
| 5. <i>Phaëthornis obscurus</i> . | 13. <i>Heliopœdica melanotis</i> . |
| 6. „ <i>viridicaudata</i> . | 14. <i>Erythronota edwardi</i> . |
| 7. <i>Lampornis gramineus</i> . | 15. „ <i>niveiventris</i> . |
| 8. „ <i>porphyurus</i> . | |

Part 16. (Sept. 1st, 1858.)

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| 1. <i>Phæolæma rubinoides</i> . | 9. <i>Thalurania venusta</i> . |
| 2. <i>Helidoxa jacula</i> . | 10. „ <i>eriphile</i> . |
| 3. <i>Discura longicauda</i> . | 11. „ <i>verticeps</i> . |
| 4. <i>Phaëthornis superciliosus</i> . | 12. <i>Microchera albicoronata</i> . |
| 5. „ <i>cephalus</i> . | 13. <i>Chrysobronchus virescens</i> . |
| 6. <i>Sternoclyta cyanepectus</i> . | 14. „ <i>viridicaudus</i> . |
| 7. <i>Thalurania furcata</i> . | 15. <i>Chrysuronia eliciæ</i> . |
| 8. „ <i>columbica</i> . | |

We look forward with great anxiety to the completion of this great work (which we believe we may shortly expect); and we hope that Mr. Gould in his introduction will not only give us a simple, understandable arrangement of this difficult group, but also some structural characters for the recognition of the multitude of genera into which it is now divided, and which appear to be still increasing, three new generic terms having been published in these last two parts.

The Tenth Part of 'The Birds of Asia' contains figures of

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|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. <i>Phasianus mongolicus</i> . | 9. <i>Palæornis derbianus</i> . |
| 2. <i>Ceriornis caboti</i> . | 10. „ <i>malaccensis</i> . |
| 3. <i>Pyrrhula aurantia</i> . | 11. „ <i>affinis</i> . |
| 4. <i>Parus cinereus</i> . | 12. <i>Tesia cyaneiventris</i> . |
| 5. „ <i>minor</i> . | 13. „ <i>castaneo-coronata</i> . |
| 6. „ <i>monticolus</i> . | 14. <i>Accentor atrigularis</i> . |
| 7. <i>Palæornis columboides</i> . | 15. „ <i>altaicus</i> . |
| 8. „ <i>schisticeps</i> . | 16. <i>Merula unicolor</i> . |

Of these, *Ceriornis caboti*, *Pyrrhula aurantia*, and *Palæornis affinis* are all new and most interesting additions to the respective groups to which they belong. *Accentor huttoni* and *A. variegatus* of the Himalayas have been judiciously united to the Siberian *A. atrigularis* and *A. altaicus* respectively, and, as it seems to us, upon satisfactory evidence. The latter bird is nearly

allied to the Alpine Accentor. With regard to *Merula unicolor*, we do not quite agree with Mr. Gould in considering it so rare and so restricted to the western parts of Upper India as he appears to think. Specimens *are* in the British Museum, collected by Mr. Hodgson in Nepal, and it has been named by that gentleman *Petrocincla homochroa*, and indifferently figured in his unpublished series of plates. We believe it is also the *Turdus unicolor* of Capt. Tickell (Journ. As. Soc. Beng. ii. 577) and *Turdus modestus* of Blyth (*ibid.* xvi. 144). Capt. Boys' specimens, one of which Mr. Gould refers to, were collected in the province of Kumaon, and the bird bears the number 495 in his series. There are likewise examples in Sir William Jardine's collection, and in that of the late Mr. Strickland.

We gladly welcome the appearance of the first part of Mr. Eyton's '*Osteologia Avium*'*, a work on a very important and hitherto much neglected branch of ornithological science, without the aid of which it is hopeless to expect to arrive at a natural arrangement of the class. The plates are drawn on zinc by Erxleben, under Mr. Eyton's personal superintendence.

Mr. Bree's work on European birds which have not been observed in the British Isles, forming a sequel to Mr. Morris's History of British Birds, has reached its 7th Number. We have received from a correspondent, well acquainted with European ornithology, an extended notice of this book, given above, to which we beg to refer our readers for further information.

The first three parts of the '*Illustrated Proceedings of the Zoological Society*,' containing the papers read up to July 13th, and accompanying plates, have appeared. The articles relating to Ornithology are very numerous, and it is hardly necessary to extract even their titles, as the work must be in the hands of every one who pays attention to Natural History. The writers on Birds are Messrs. Gould, George Gray, Meves, and Sclater, and Drs. J. E. Gray, Hartlaub, and Krefft. Mr. Gould describes (p. 355) two new species of *Hirundinidæ* (*Atticora pileata* from Guatemala, and *Chelidon cashmeriensis* from Cashmir), and a new Ptarmigan (*Lagopus hemileucurus*) from Spitzbergen (p. 354). Mr. George Gray gives a list of the birds obtained by Mr. Wallace

* See the Advertisements on the cover.

in the Arú and Ké Islands, with descriptions of new species (p. 169). A *Tanysiptera*, a *Ptilorhynchus*, five Parrots*, and as many splendid Pigeons, are amongst Mr. Wallace's most brilliant discoveries, as here recorded. A useful table appended gives the distribution of the species in New Guinea, the Arú and Ké Islands, the Louisiade Archipelago, Waigiou, Timor-laut, Northern Australia, and Torres Straits. M. Meves' communication (p. 199) is on the humming-noise of some of the Snipes, which it now said to be produced by the peculiarly-shaped outer tail-feathers. Mr. Sclater's papers are on the birds collected by Mr. Bridges in California (p. 1); on a collection of birds from the Rio Napo (p. 57); on some birds from Southern Mexico (p. 95); on new or little-known Accipitres from the Norwich Museum (p. 128); a Synopsis of the *Formicariidæ* (pp. 202, 232 and 272); on the Magellanic Goose (p. 289); on new Tanagers (p. 293); on a collection of birds from Oaxaca (p. 294); on a new *Buteo* (p. 356); and on birds collected by Capt. Taylor in Honduras (p. 356). Among the birds from the Rio Napo, are two very beautiful new forms of Tanagridæ, *Euchaetes coccineus* and *Creurgops verticalis* (pl. 132). Dr. Hartlaub describes "new species of birds from Western Africa in the Collection of the British Museum" (p. 291). Dr. J. E. Gray makes remarks on the eggs of the new Cassowary (*C. bennettii*), of which two somewhat dissimilar examples are in the British Museum (p. 271). Dr. Krefft gives an interesting notice on the habits and nesting of *Pomatorhinus ruficeps*, Hartlaub, of Australia.

The 'Annals of Natural History' for the year 1858, besides giving most of the important papers read before the Zoological Society, contain (No. 10)—"Description of a new Grass-finch from New Caledonia," by John Macgillivray; (No. 12) a paper "On a peculiar process attached to the Ischium in Erucivores," by T. C. Eyton; and the "Description of a new species of bird from Palestine," by P. L. Sclater. Out of the many species of birds in New Caledonia, Mr. Macgillivray has unfortunately selected one of the few, which are already known to the scientific world, to describe as new. As Dr. Hartlaub has shown in a

* We must, however, express a doubt of the distinctness of *Chalcopsitta rubrifrons* from *C. scintillata* (Temm.).

recent communication to the Zoological Society, *Poëphila pad-doni* was discovered in New Caledonia as long ago as the year 1774 by the Forsters, who accompanied Capt. Cook in his second voyage. It is described and figured by Latham in his 'Synopsis' (vol. iii. p. 287. pl. 48) as the "Parrot Finch," which name was latinized by Gmelin into *Fringilla psittacea*. It belongs strictly to the genus *Erythrura*. We are not aware that the curious process attached to the anterior extremity of the ischium, mentioned by Mr. Eyton as occurring in the *Cuculidæ* and their affines, has been previously noticed as being peculiar to this group, although some allusion to it appears to be made in Dr. Opel's elaborate paper on *Cuculus canorus* published in Cabanis's Journal for 1858. Mr. Tristram's discovery of a species of the purely African genus *Amydrus* in Palestine is certainly remarkable.

'The Zoologist' for 1858 contains, as usual, a number of notes on the habits of birds and the occurrence of rare species, which must always be of great interest to the naturalist.

The second volume of the 'Catalogue of the Birds in the Museum of the Hon. East India Company, by Thomas Horsfield and Frederic Moore*,' recently issued, is the continuation of a very important work, which we hope soon to see complete. There is as yet no such thing as a scientifically-prepared catalogue of the birds of any of the larger museums† of Europe; and it will be no small honour to produce the first of such a series. Moreover, the numerous notes concerning the habits of species added to the synonyms in this work render it almost a book of light reading for the general naturalist, as well as a valuable work of reference to those who are engaged in studying the ornithology of the East. We may call particular attention to the notices given of the very strange habits of various species of Hornbills (*Buceros*) during the period of incubation (p. 587 *et seq.*). Similar facts were noted by Dr. Livingstone‡ in his recent journey in Africa concerning *Tuccus erythrorhynchus*. If we have any fault to find with the book, it is that the generic

* London, Allen and Co., Leadenhall Street.

† We should except perhaps that of Bremen, of which a carefully prepared catalogue has been printed by Dr. Hartlaub.

‡ Livingstone's Missionary Travels in South Africa, p. 613.

divisions adopted are sometimes too numerous, and the arrangement employed a little out of date. But this does not interfere with the great general merit of the work, which is, we believe, mainly due to the labour bestowed upon it by Mr. F. Moore.

De Verteuil's 'Trinidad *' contains a good deal of information upon the zoology of the island, put together in rather a desultory way. The scientific names when given are often misspelt. We learn (p. 118) that the King Vulture inhabits the high woods, as also the Red-headed *Cathartes*. The Black-headed *Cathartes*, as in the U. S., is gregarious, and found principally in the towns and plantations, where it is the common scavenger. 'An Essay on the Ornithology of Trinidad,' by Antoine Leotand, is appended, and here also will be found much generally interesting matter. Nearly 300 species are stated to have fallen under observation. A list is given of their genera and subgenera "after Cuvier." The Guacharo (*Steatornis*) is in Trinidad also called "*Diablotin*." Dr. Leotand remarks:—"The young ones, which are literally a mass of fat, are highly praised and relished by amateurs. I have on several occasions partaken of them, but must candidly confess, in consequence of a certain cockroachy flavour, which is the reverse of tempting, I have for a long time discarded that dish."

The 'Naturalist in Bermuda †' is the title of a little work on the "geology, zoology and botany of that remarkable group of islands," just issued from the press. Mr. Jones is fortunate in having secured two such excellent observers as Major Wedderburn and Mr. Hurdis to assist him in his labours on the birds. Except the notices in Sir William Jardine's 'Contributions,' the present is the only attempt at an account of this peculiar fauna, which is divided in its allegiance between the Old and New Worlds, and seems to incline first towards one and then towards the other, "according to the way the wind blows." On the whole, however, the American types are decidedly predominant, *Cardinalis virginianus* and *Sialia wilsoni*

* 'Trinidad: its Geography, Natural Resources, Administration, Present Condition and Prospects.' By L. A. A. De Verteuil, M.D.P. London, 1858, 1 vol. 8vo.

† Reeves and Turner, Strand, London, 1859.

being common and resident*. We recommend this book to the notice of the residents in our numerous islands and dependencies, as showing how much there is to be done even in so limited a field of observation.

II. FRENCH PUBLICATIONS.

The death of the late lamented Prince Bonaparte, which occurred last year, has created a vacancy in the list of the active ornithologists of France, which it will be hard to fill. But of the several works commenced or projected by the Prince at the time of his death, two at least are being continued. The 'Iconographie des Perroquets,' a supplement to the great publications of Le Vaillant and Saint-Hilaire, is issued as far as its 12th livraison. We do not much like the plates of this book, which are very *French* in style and execution; they are, however, a great advance upon those of the work of Saint-Hilaire. But the L. P. (from the pen of M. de Souancé, we believe) is very commendable, containing the complete synonymy with accurate descriptions and precise localities of each species figured. We think, however, that in a scientific work, though this perhaps is less necessary where the language employed is French, the technical characters of the species should be given in Latin.

The corresponding work, entitled 'Iconographie des Pigeons,' has also reached its 12th livraison.

Of the 'Revue et Magasin de Zoologie' for the year 1858, we have received seven numbers, which contain several interesting articles on Ornithology, from the pens of MM. Malherbe, Moquin-Tandon, Pucheran, and Jules Verreaux. M. Malherbe describes a new Woodpecker from Ecuador (*Celeopicus verreauxii*). M. Moquin-Tandon continues his useful "Notes Ornithologiques" upon the birds of the South of France. Dr. Pucheran writes observations on *Pica beecheyii*, *Cyanopica cyanea*, and *Juida nitens*. M. Verreaux publishes characters of three new birds, *Dryoscopus turatii* (ex Afr. Occid.), *Monarcha castaneiventris* (ex ins. Samoens.), and *Cyanalcyon leucopygius* (ex ins. Salomon.).

* The Tropic-bird of the Bermudas is *Phaëthon flavirostris*, and not *P. athereus*. See Jardine's Contrib. 1852, pl. 84, where the egg is figured.

Loche's Catalogue* of Mammals and Birds observed in Algeria contains a list of the specimens exhibited at the "Exposition permanente des produits de l'Algérie" at Algiers, with the addition of other species observed by the author in that country. The classification adopted is that of Prince Bonaparte's 'Catalogue des Oiseaux d'Europe,' some few synonyms are given, and the 'habitat' added to each species. The book is a very useful one in its way, particularly as a handbook for tourists, or for those who are working at the ornithology of this country, as by far the most complete list of the birds of Algeria yet issued. But we object to the practice of publishing new specific names in any form without giving descriptions. Who is to know what is intended by "*Malurus sahara*, Loche in litt.," "*Calendrella reboudia*, Loche in litt.," "*Galerida randonii*, Loche in litt.?" Can the public peruse M. Loche's private correspondence and ascertain what birds he may have so designated? It stands to reason that the publication of such names without descriptions gives not the slightest title to priority, and is only productive of a confusion of synonymy, which retards the progress of science. M. Loche's Catalogue enumerates as species observed by himself—

Accipitres . . .	46	Cursores . . .	1
Insessores . . .	157	Grallæ . . .	70
Columbæ . . .	5	Anseres . . .	73
Gallinæ . . .	6		—
		Total	358

An Appendix contains the names of 42 others considered doubtful. With regard to the main list, however, we suspect it will be difficult to establish the specific validity of such species as *Amnomanes elegans*, *Microcarbo algeriensis*, and some others.

3. GERMAN PUBLICATIONS.

Of Cabanis' 'Journal für Ornithologie' we have received only the first four parts for the last year. We notice some of the more remarkable articles. The veteran naturalist Max, Prinz zu Wied, contributes a series of interesting papers on the birds

* Catalogue des Mammifères et des Oiseaux observés en Algérie par le Capitaine Loche. Paris, 1858, 1 vol. 8vo.

observed by him during his North American journey twenty-five years ago. Had this been published soon after his return, it is probable that the species to which he gives names as undescribed might have been really new. It is, however, hardly likely that they can have escaped the penetrating researches of the Americans up to the present time. Brehm's 'Singing-birds of Spain' well merits perusal. Under the head of *Dromolea leucura*, which he observed in that country, he takes the opportunity of describing two new species from Egypt, *Dromolea leucocephala* and *D. leucopygia* (Journ. f. Orn. 1858, pp. 62 and 66). We believe them to be well-founded, having lately examined examples of both, obtained by Mr. Tristram in the Algerian Sahara. In Heft ii. Dr. Bolle's paper on the Wild Canary, and Prof. Burmeister's Ornithological letter from Mendoza are both of a very interesting nature. The *Turdus anthracinus*, mentioned by the latter author as one of the true Thrushes occurring in the vicinity of Mendoza, is doubtless D'Orbigny's *Turdus fuscater*, of which Mr. Bridges obtained specimens in the same locality. Heft iii. contains the commencement of a very elaborate article on the Anatomy and General History of the Cuckoo by Dr. Opel. A note from Herr von Homeyer seems to confirm Dr. Gloger's views as to the distinctness of *Carbo desmaresti* of the Eastern Mediterranean. In Heft 4 is the second part of Dr. Opel's essay on *Cuculus*, at the end of which (p. 306) will be found the results at which the author has arrived as to the causes of its singular method of propagation. Professor Alex. von Nordmann communicates observations on the Nesting of the Waxed Chatterer (*Ampelis garrula*). We beg to remind him that our countryman Mr. John Wolley is entitled to the whole merit of this discovery. The nest and eggs were first taken by Mr. Wolley in June 1856, and were exhibited at a meeting of the Zoological Society held on the 24th of March, 1857. If the Professor will refer to the Illustrated volume of Proceedings for that year, he will find not only a full description, but a figure of both nest and eggs.

Of 'Naumannia' for 1858 we have only received the first part. It contains amongst other things an account of the birds of the Cyclades by Dr. Erhard. Fifty-two species are given as permanent residents, 77 as winter visitants, 62 as birds of passage

in autumn or spring, and 29 as summer visitants. A curious, if reliable, addition to the European fauna is a new Falcon from the islands Tragonisi and Slapodia, *Falco dichrous*, Erhard.

Herr August von Pelzeln continues his interesting communications to the Academy of Sciences of Vienna, on the new or little-known species of birds of the Imperial Cabinet. The 'Sitzungsberichte' for July 1858 contain his last paper, in which he describes *Merops boleslavskii* from the Sudan, *Furnarius (Opetiorhynchus) minor* from Brazil, *Anumbius ferrugineigula* from Patagonia, *Copsychus pica* from Madagascar, *Mimus leucospilus* from Chili, *Muscivora swainsoni* from Brazil, *Penelope cujubi* from Para, giving remarks upon the allied species, and a notice of the occurrence of *Gypohierax angolensis* from the eastern coast of Africa. [What does Dr. Hartlaub say to this ?] The *Mimus leucospilus* is, we believe, a good species, and is in the British Museum from S. Elena Bay, Ecuador, not from Chili; but it is very likely to be *Mimus peruvianus* of Peale (United States Exploring Expedition).

Kittlitz's 'Denkwürdigkeiten einer Reise nach den Russischen Amerika nach Mikronesien und durch Kamtschatka*' contains many interesting notices on Natural History, particularly Ornithology, made during the author's journey round the world thirty years ago. We recommend the book as worthy of the attention of our readers.

4. AMERICAN PUBLICATIONS.

The most important work on Ornithology that has appeared during the past year is certainly the general work on North American Birds, which forms the second part of the ninth volume of the 'Reports of Explorations and Surveys to ascertain the most practicable and economical route for a Railroad from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean†.' It is from the pen of Professor Baird, with the co-operation of Messrs. Cassin and Lawrence, and is in every respect such a work as these gentlemen, already well known for their labours on the ornithology of their native country, might be expected to produce. The 'Report,'

* 2 vols. 8vo. Gotha, 1858, Perthes.

† These Reports are American "Blue-books." They may be obtained in London of Messrs. Trübner and Co.

in the words of the preface, is "a continuation of a systematic account of the vertebrate animals" observed by the different surveying parties, each of which was accompanied by competent collectors, and, "as in the volume on Mammals, by the insertion of the comparatively few species not noticed by the expeditions, becomes an exposition of the present state of our knowledge of the birds of America north of Mexico." The total number of species included as occurring within these limits is 721, being an increase of no less than 210 over the last list published by Audubon in 1844, which shows the energy which the Americans have lately devoted to the working out of their country's fauna. Of each of these species the synonymy is given in a very complete way; the specific characters are clear, and yet concise; and, besides an indication of the general geographical range, the precise locality of each individual specimen in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution, where the zoological collections made by the different surveying parties were deposited, and in most cases also its measurements, are recorded: so that, on the whole, the work must be pronounced to be very complete, and quite indispensable to any one who pays attention to the ornithology of the New World.

The following Table gives the number of species included of the different orders, and may be taken as a fair general estimate of the Nearctic Avi-fauna:—

	Species identified.	Species not identified.	Total.
Order I. Raptores	61	—	61
II. Scansores	35	—	35
III. Insessores.			
<i>a.</i> Strisores	17	—	17
<i>b.</i> Clamatores	30	1	31
<i>c.</i> Oscines	276	9	285
IV. Rasores.			
<i>a.</i> Columbæ	11	—	11
<i>b.</i> Gallinæ	21	1	22
V. Grallatores.			
<i>a.</i> Herodiones	24	—	24
<i>b.</i> Grallæ	58	1	59
VI. Natatores.			
<i>a.</i> Anseres	48	4	52
<i>b.</i> Gaviæ	108	16	124
Total	689	32	721

The 'Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia' for 1858 have been received in this country up to p. 184, giving the papers read up to October 26. The ornithological communications are—(1) "Descriptions of new Birds from the vicinity of Fort Tejon, Cal.," by J. X. de Vesey (*Tyrannula hammondi* and *Vireo cassinii*); (2) "Description of a new *Toxostoma* (*T. crissalis*) and a new *Junco* (*J. dorsalis*)," by Dr. T. C. Henry, from New Mexico; and (3) "Description of a new Tanager from the Isthmus of Darien, and Note on *Selenidera spectabilis*," by John Cassin. The Tanager is a *Calliste*, belonging to the section containing *C. gyrola* and its allies. Mr. Cassin calls it *C. lavinia*. It is the second* species discovered since the completion of the lately published Monograph. The beautiful new Toucan, named by Mr. Cassin *Selenidera spectabilis* (Proc. Acad. Philad. 1857, p. 214), was again obtained by the American Surveying party on the Isthmus of Darien, near the village of Susio, province of Choco. A plate, giving good figures of two interesting African species, *Pholidornis rushiæ* and *Ægithalus flavifrons*, is attached to the same part of the 'Proceedings.'

The 'Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York' for 1858 contain (1) "Notes on some Cuban Birds, with descriptions of three new species," by John Gundlach. The species mentioned are, *Cypselus collaris*, Max, *C. niger* (Gm.), *Tachornis iradii*, Lembeye, *Myiadestes elizabethæ*, Lemb., *Colaptes chrysocauleus*, sp. nov., *Culicivora lembeyii*, sp. nov., and *Teretristris fornsi*, sp. nov. They are accompanied by interesting observations on their habits. Mr. Lawrence adds some explanatory remarks. The discovery of the distinctness of *Colaptes chrysocauleus* from the common Golden shafted of the United States (*Colaptes auratus*) is noteworthy; it being the fourth species of the family now known as peculiar to the island. (2) "Descriptions of two new species of Gulls in the Museum of the Smithsonian Institution at Washington (*Larus suckleyii* and *Rissa septentrionalis*) both from Puget Sound," by Mr. Lawrence. (3) "Descriptions of seven new species of Humming-birds," by George N. Lawrence. We understand from Mr. Gould, to whom Mr. Lawrence has sent the types of his species for exa-

* *Calliste cyanotis*, Selater (Proc. Zool. Soc. 1858, p. 294), is the other.

mination, that the whole of them (with the possible exception of *Iolema frontalis*) are known in Europe, and have nearly all been previously described.

The new edition of the 'Mammals and Birds of the United States Exploring Expedition under Commodore Wilkes,' by Mr. Cassin, has just been received in this country. We hope hereafter to be able to give a full notice of this important work.

XI.—*Extracts from Correspondence, Notices, &c.*

(Plate III.)

WE are happy to be able to state that letters have been received from Mr. Wallace, dated Ternate, September 2nd, announcing his safe return from New Guinea about a fortnight before that time. Mr. Wallace gives by no means a favourable account of Havre-Dorey as a collecting-place, and says that he has never made a voyage "so disagreeable, expensive, and unsatisfactory as that now completed." He suffered greatly from illness and from bad and insufficient food, and was only just sufficiently recovered to work at cleansing and packing his collections. His servants suffered as much as himself, two or three of them were always sick, and one of his hunters died of dysentery. Not only was he unable to procure any of the rarer Paradise-birds himself at this spot, but he could not even purchase a single skin of them. "It is certain," says Mr. Wallace, "that all but the two common yellow species" (*Paradisea apoda* and *P. papuana*) "are very rare, even in the places where the natives get them, for you may see hundreds of the common species to perhaps one of the rarer sorts. I sent two of my servants with seven natives a voyage of 100 miles to the most celebrated place for birds—Amberbabei—mentioned by Lesson, and after twenty days they brought me back nothing but two of *P. papuana* and one of *P. regia*." He goes on to say, "My only hope now lies in Waigiou, where I shall probably go next year, and try for *P. rubra* and *P. superba*. Even of *P. papuana* I have not many, as my boys had to shoot them all themselves. I got *nothing* from the natives at Dorey. You will ask why I did not try somewhere else, when I found Dorey so bad. The simple